**Children's Illness/Infection Policy (September 2025)**

**Policy Statement:** At Little Acorns preschool, we prioritise the health, safety, and well-being of all children, staff, and visitors. Our Illness/Infection Policy complies with the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, September 2025).

We understand that children often have coughs and colds and that largely they are fine during this time to come to preschool.

**Health and Hygiene Practices:**

* We actively promote robust health and hygiene habits, including thorough handwashing, proper respiratory etiquette, and hygienic disposal of tissues.
* Regular handwashing is reinforced before eating, after toileting, and after contact with bodily fluids.

**Sick Child Exclusion:**

* Children displaying symptoms of illness or infection will be required to stay at home until fully recovered or the exclusion period recommended by NHS guidelines has passed.
* Parents are asked to keep their child at home if symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, persistent cough, rash, or infectious illness are observed.
* Parents must inform the childminder promptly of any contagious disease diagnosis.

**Raised Temperature:**

* If your child has a raised temperature (38\*plus), is lethargic or showing symptoms of being generally unwell, please keep them at home until they are recovered both for their well-being and the well-being of the other children and staff at the preschool.
* If your child becomes unwell at preschool, with a raised temperature(38\*plus) we will call and ask you to collect them and monitor them in the comfort of their own home.

**Isolation and Comfort:**

* Any child showing signs of illness while in our care will be gently isolated from others to prevent potential spread.
* A comfortable, quiet, and supervised area will be provided for the ill child until parent/guardian collection.

**Notification of Parents:**

* Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately if their child becomes unwell during preschool hours.
* Prompt collection of the sick child by parents/guardians will be required to facilitate appropriate care and limit infection spread.

**Medical Attention and Medication:**

* Immediate medical assistance will be sought if a child's condition necessitates urgent attention, with parents/guardians notified promptly.
* Medication for ongoing health conditions will be administered according to clear parental instructions, aligning with our Medication Administration Policy and EYFS guidance.

**Return to Childminding Setting:**

* Children may return only when symptom-free and meeting guidelines established by NHS England or professional healthcare advice.
* Return criteria will follow EYFS and local health authority recommendations to ensure child and community safety.

**Cleaning and Disinfection:**

* A rigorous cleaning and disinfection schedule is maintained, prioritising high-touch surfaces and shared resources to prevent cross-infection.
* Appropriate, safe, and effective cleaning products will be utilised consistently.

**Documentation and Records:**

* Accurate records of illnesses/infections, including symptoms, onset dates, actions taken, and communications with parents/health authorities, are meticulously kept.
* Mandatory reporting of contagious illnesses to local health authorities will comply with statutory requirements.

**Communication and Collaboration:**

* Regular updates and clear communication will be maintained with parents regarding infection prevention strategies and illness management procedures.
* Collaboration with local health authorities ensures adherence to current infection control recommendations.

**Infectious Illnesses (NHS):**

We also reserve the right to send children home if we suspect any of the following highly infectious illnesses, based on current NHS advice:

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|  | If we suspect this illness we may call and ask that you collect your child and… |
| Chicken Pox | Keep them home until the spots have scabbed over, usually about 5 days after the first spots appeared. |
| Conjunctivitis | Please treat their eye infection through seeking advice from your pharmacist or doctor. Your child is fine to attend preschool once treated. |
| Hand, foot and mouth | Please seek advice from your doctor or pharmacist. The child can attend preschool if they feel well. |
| Impetigo | Please visit your doctor for antibiotics and keep your child at home for at least 48 hours and until when the lesions have crusted over. |
| Ringworm and threadworm | Please seek advice and treatment from your doctor or pharmacist. Your child can then return to preschool if they feel well. |
| Slapped Cheek | Please visit your doctor and inform the preschool of the diagnosis as it is infectious. However, once the rash is visible it is no longer infectious so your child can return if they are well. |
| Vomiting and Diarrhoea | Please keep your child at home for 48 hours after their **last** episode of vomiting or diarrheoa |
| Measles | Please visit your doctor and keep your child at home for at least 4 days. |
| Scarlet Fever | Please visit your doctor, your child can return 48 hours after antibiotic treatment is completed. |
| Whooping Cough | Please keep your child home for 48 hours if antibiotic treatment is given or 21 days if no treatment given. |
| Head Lice | Please treat your child and family before returning to preschool. Please seek advice from a pharmacist. |
| Antibiotics | Please keep your child at home for at least 48 hours if they are prescribed a new antibiotic (never taken before) to ensure your child does not have an adverse reaction. We will administer antibiotics that have been prescribed by a doctor and have clear prescription instructions and state the childs name. Parents will need to give consent by signing the medicine book available from the supervisor on duty. |
| Threadworms | You can buy medicine from your pharmacist to treat threadworms, all family members must be treated (over the age of 2 years). You do not need to see your dr. Your child can return to preschool once medication has been taken. Please advise the preschool of any infection so that we may ensure correct handling of any contamination potential. |

For further advice please visit [www.nhs.gov.uk](http://www.nhs.gov.uk) - ‘Is my child too ill for school’

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) - Managing specific infectious diseases’

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

* The policy incorporates EYFS 2025 revisions, emphasizing preventive healthcare, robust hygiene practices, transparent communication, and stringent infection control standards.

Signed: Chairperson   
Date: September 2025